

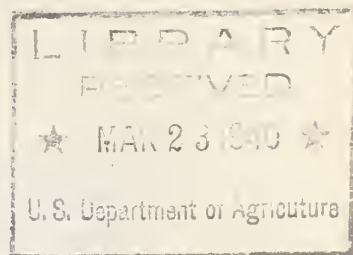
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
Land Economics Division

Bulletin 53



DIGEST OF OUTSTANDING FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION
AFFECTING RURAL LAND USE

Washington, D. C.
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FEDERAL LEGISLATION - BILLS INTRODUCED

Agricultural Adjustment

H.R. 8348. Introduced by Mr. Burdick. February 7. To Committee on Agriculture. Would inaugurate a new farm program by which the Secretary of Agriculture would annually determine and fix the sale prices for agricultural products, in order that the producers on average home-operated farms may be fairly compensated. The minimum price for production of crops would be as follows: wheat \$1.50 per bushel, oats 50¢ per bushel, barley 75¢ per bushel, flax \$2.50 per bushel, rye \$1.25 per bushel, corn 80¢ per bushel, cotton 15¢ per pound, rice \$3.50 per 100 pounds, tobacco 40¢ per pound, butcher hogs and cattle 12¢ per pound, butcher lambs 15¢ per pound, chickens 20¢ per pound, and turkeys 35¢ per pound. The program does not limit production but does prohibit the sale in the United States of products in excess of producer's allotments. In determining what portion of the national production for a given crop is to be sold under the protected price, the Secretary would be required to give consideration to the following elements: (a) the probable annual production, (b) the probable domestic consumption and (c) the probable surplus if any.

S. 3236. Introduced by Mr. Ellender. February 1. To Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. (See also S. 3237). Would amend the Sugar Act of 1937 so as to require that the Secretary of Agriculture deduct from any payments due a producer in connection with the 1937 or succeeding crops, the sum of \$5.00 for any day or part of a day during which a child under the age of 14 years may have been employed in the producing, cultivating, or harvesting of sugar beets, or sugar cane. An exception is made for a member of the immediate family of a person who is the legal owner of not less than 40% of the crop. Under the terms of the present act (50 Stat. 909) no payments are allowed when children are employed under such conditions.

S. 3230. Introduced by Mr. Perper. February 2. To Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. Would amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act, in order to allow the insurance of citrus fruit crops beginning with the year 1941-42. The annual appropriation for administering the Act would be increased from \$6,000,000 to \$7,000,000 and a \$5,000,000 reserve would be authorized to be permanently available for the payment of indemnities in connection with citrus fruit insurance.

Emergency Relief

H.R. 8312. Introduced by Mr. Hall. February 6. To Committee on Agriculture. Proposes the establishment of a procedure for the relief of livestock producers in an area which has suffered from disastrous fires, droughts, floods or other acts of nature. Designation of emergency areas would be made by the Secretary of Agriculture in conjunction with the Governor of the affected State and the F.S.A. would be authorized to purchase such surplus subsistence crops as may be available within reasonable shipping distance and make provision for transportation and resale of the crops within the area. Assistance would not be given beyond a single growing season except upon certification of the continued existence of the emergency and no quantity of the emergency subsistence would be provided for an individual beyond the amount ordinarily grown by him. (A subsistence crop is "the crop which is normally and customarily grown on a given ranch or farm and designed for and customarily consumed by the animals on that ranch or farm without any material surplus for sale.)

Farm Credit

The following bills were introduced proposing a permanent low rate of interest on Federal Land Bank and Land Bank Commissioner loans:

H.R. 8330. Mr. Knutson. February 6. Proposes a permanent $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ rate on Federal Land Bank loans and a $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ rate on Land Bank Commissioner loans.

H.R. 8370, Mr. Colley, and H.R. 8450, Mr. Jones, February 8. Would provide a permanent rate of $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ on Land Bank loans and 4% on Commissioner loans.

H.R. 8392. Introduced by Mr. Ferguson. February 9. To Committee on Banking and Currency. Provides for the making of R.F.C. loans to the Secretary of Agriculture, upon his request approved by the President, of \$150,000,000 for each fiscal year beginning in 1941 with interest at 3%. These loans would be secured by the obligation of borrowers on rural rehabilitation loans made under the direction of the F.S.A.

S. 3265. Introduced by Mr. Ashurst. February 6. To Committee on Banking and Currency. Would increase the maximum limit of Federal Land Bank loans to any one borrower from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Flood Control

H.R. 8371. Introduced by Mr. Disney. February 8. To Committee on Flood Control. Provides for a preliminary flood control survey, in accordance with the provisions of the Flood Control Act of June 22, 1936, of Salt Creek in Osage County, Oklahoma.

H.R. 8421. Introduced by Mr. Cartwright. February 12. To Committee on Flood Control. Would amend the Flood Control Act of June 28, 1938, by authorizing an additional appropriation for the construction of the Wister Reservoir on the Poteau River in Oklahoma and Arkansas.

H.R. 8451. Introduced by Mr. Kefauver. February 13. To Committee on Flood Control. Would authorize the construction of local works for the protection of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Rossville, Georgia, in accordance with recommendations made by the Chief of Army Engineers and described in House Document 479, 76th Congress.

Federal Aid

S. 3340. Introduced by Mr. Lee. February 13. To Committee on Education and Labor. Would provide a ten year program of Federal aid to the States for the construction of needed public school building facilities and the acquisition of requisite equipment. \$50,000,000 would be appropriated for 1941 and 1942 respectively and this amount would be increased to \$100,000,000 during each of the next eight years. 98% of the funds for the first two years and 99% of the funds for the succeeding eight years, would go to the Federal works agency for the use of the Federal works administrator in making grants to local school units to aid them in the construction of public school buildings. No grant would be made for more than 50% of the total cost of the project. Allotments to any State would be determined on the basis of an index of financial need. It would be the duty of the Commissioner of Education to calculate and certify the index of financial need for the nation as a whole and for each of the States. For this purpose 2% of the fund appropriated for the first two years and 1% for the succeeding eight years would be allocated to him.

Water Utilization

H.R. 8239. Introduced by Mr. Kocialkowski. January 31. To Committee on Insular Affairs. Proposes the creation of a Porto Rico Water Resources Authority, a public corpor-

Water Utiliz. cont.

ation, controlled by the Governor, Attorney General and Commissioner of Interior of Porto Rico. The Authority would have the following functions, (1) to conserve, develop and utilize the water resources of the Island, (2) to develop and dispose of water or electric energy, (3) to construct dams, reservoirs and other related works. The properties and business of the utilization of the water resources would be transferred to the Authority and appropriations heretofore made to the former body would be ratified by this Act. The Authority would be authorized to issue bonds but these bonds would not be considered a debt of the people of Porto Rico. The property of the Authority would be tax exempt.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION - LAWS ENACTED

Agricultural Adjustment

Public No. 406 (H.R. 7171, Mr. Jones), approved January 25, 1940. By amendment to Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, the President is given additional powers with respect to restrictions placed on articles likely to be imported which would adversely affect a farm program. He may impose an importation fee as well as an importation quota (quota only was previously allowed), and basis for minimum quota is changed from a fiscal to a calendar year basis. The President is also allowed to fix the effective date of an importation fee or quota (was automatically fixed at fifteen days after issuance.)

Public No. 415 (H.R. 7805, Mr. Taylor), approved February 12, 1940. Title V of this "Emergency Supplemental Appropriation Act" allows not to exceed \$11,000,000 of the funds appropriated for "Parity Payments" to be used for payments under the "Price Adjustment Act of 1938."

STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS IN 1940

Regular Sessions

Kentucky - Convened January 2nd.
Mississippi - Convened January 2nd.
New Jersey - Convened - January 9th.
New York - Convened - January 3rd.
Rhode Island - Convened January 2nd.
South Carolina - Convened January 9th.
Virginia - Convened January 10th.

Special Sessions

California - Convened January 29th.
Louisiana - Met from January 20th to January 25th.
Nebraska - Met from January 2nd to January 13th.

California Governor's Message

Governor Culbert L. Olson addressed the Special Session of the California Legislature on its opening day, January 29. Several statements were made which have important rural land use implications. In discussing sources of additional revenue for the State, the Governor warned that "... taxes should have a direct relation to ability to pay. Governments should, so far as possible, avoid those levies which fall with particular severity upon low income groups and should utilize taxes which increase in accordance with the income of the taxpayer. In keeping with this plan it is obvious that the State of California should not increase its retail sales tax nor enact a general gross receipts tax. It should not levy a property tax for the State revenue." The Governor would recommend a severance tax on the depletion of what he described as "our rich and irreplaceable natural resources." In support of that recommendation he pointed out that 19 States now have severance taxes on one or more of their natural resources, and that a two percent tax upon petroleum, natural gas, and natural gasoline as produced, would yield revenue amounting to approximately \$6,000,000 per year, while a 3 percent tax would amount to \$9,000,000.

With reference to the Central Valley Authority Act, mention was made of previous efforts to have it amended in order to meet the requirements of the Federal Government, and it was suggested that as a result of mature consideration on the part of representatives of both State and Federal Governments, that new amendments had been drafted for submission to the Special Session. The proposed amendments "... would free up to \$50,000,000 of the \$170,000,000 of

Governor's Message - Calif. cont.

revenue bonds authorized in the present Act, to be used by the State in carrying out the purposes and objects of the Act itself. It would place the State in a position to contract with the Federal Government for the distribution of the electric power developed by the project, instead of leaving the Federal Government and therefore to be served at the mercy of a private power distribution monopoly which would be its only purchaser."

Other topics referred to in the address included a proposal that the State be allowed to drill for oil and gas wells on its own land, and that amendments be passed in connection with the 1938 Soil Conservation District Act which would meet objections raised by the Attorney General due to the law having been passed under a supplement to the proclamation calling the Special Session.

There is an interesting proposal in the conclusion with reference to the reorganization of the State Legislature. Emphasizing the hardships imposed upon members by prolonged special sessions and the great unimportance of the subjects which require immediate action from time to time, the Governor stated that there was "...need for a change in the constitution of our Legislative branch of the Government, so as to provide, not only for adequate compensation to the members sufficient to command their entire time, but also to provide for a one-house body which will meet every year for as long as it is necessary. . ."

STATE LEGISLATION - BILLS INTRODUCED

Governmental Cooperation

New York - A. 1303. Consent to Federal Acquisition. (Introduced by Mr. Pease, February 7). Acquisition of land by the Federal Government for the purposes of establishing forestry and wildlife management areas, would be officially consented to on the condition that the State retain convenient jurisdiction and authority over the areas.

Government Organization

Kentucky - H.^b. 97. County School Districts. (Introduced by Mr. Leonard, January 12). Would require that the Board of Education of each county school district divide the district into five divisions as nearly as possible equal in population and containing integral voting precincts; this to be accomplished on or before May 1, 1941. The purpose of the division would be to facilitate the election of members to the County Board of Education.

Govt. Organ. cont.

New Jersey - A. J. R. 1. Joint Legislative Committee. (Introduced by Mr. Platts, January 22). Proposes the creation of a Joint Legislative Committee on Economy and Reorganization, which would be charged with the duty of making surveys of the departments, bodies and agencies of the State government, for the purpose of recommending changes in organization and eliminating overlapping operations.

New York - A. 1028. Department of Consumers. (Introduced by Mr. Wagner, January 30). Proposes an amendment to the constitution which would permit the establishment of a Department of Consumers in the State government.

Virginia - S. B. 11. Optional Forms of County Government. (Introduced by Mr. Montague, January 15). Would amend the Code sections relating to optional forms of county government so as to make them applicable to counties having less than 60 square miles of highland or land above low water line, when approved by a majority of the qualified voters in those counties.

Land Use Regulation and Development

California - A. B. 60. Soil Conservation Districts. (Introduced by Messrs. O'Donnell, Robertson and Burns, February 2). Would repeal the present soil conservation district law enacted at the Special Session of the Legislature in 1938 and substitute a new law following virtually the same principles. Proceedings for the organization of districts taken under the present act, would be validated. The substitute bill is presented in order to overcome possible questions as to the constitutionality of the present law; the State Attorney General having raised the question, because of the fact that the subject of soil conservation was added to the call for the Special Session by an amendment presented after the Session began.

Kentucky - H.R. 234. Oil and Gas Wells. (Introduced by Mr. Carter, January 25). Would require operators to obtain permits for drilling, reopening, reconditioning or completing an oil or gas well and would also require that a drilling log be kept and filed annually with the county court clerk on the tenth of January.

Kentucky - H.B. 297. Fire Control. (Introduced by Mr. Porter, February 1). Would make it unlawful for anyone to wilfully, intentionally, or maliciously, set fire to "woods or fields belonging to another with the intention of burning said woods or fields". Violations would be punishable by

finer of \$500 to \$1000 or imprisonment for from one to two years, or both.

Land Tenure

Kentucky - H.P. 371. Exemption of Wages. (Introduced by Mr. Lyons, February 9). Would make all salaries or wages earned, whether by single persons or by members of families, exempt from execution, attachment, garnishment, distress, or fee bill.

New York - A. 1130. Crop Liens. (Introduced by Mr. Lupton, February 1). Proposes that persons engaged in the business of farming or market gardening be permitted to purchase agricultural seeds, vegetable seeds and fertilizer, securing payment of the purchase price by a chattel mortgage upon the resulting crop. The chattel mortgage would be a lien upon the mortgaged property and valid against the mortgagor and against all creditors and all subsequent purchasers, mortgagees and lienors. Clauses would be permitted in the mortgage giving the mortgagor the right to sell any part of the crop so long as the proceeds of the sale were applied upon the debt or used for the purpose of paying the expenses of cultivating, harvesting, or marketing.

New York - S. 851. State Mortgage Board. (Introduced by Mr. Joseph, January 30). Proposes the creation of a State Mortgage Board to be composed of five members appointed by the Governor, at least two of whom must have had ten years real estate experience. One member, but not more than three members, must be practicing attorneys with ten years experience. Notwithstanding other statutory provisions relating to the foreclosure of mortgages, owners of real property or the owners of mortgages and mortgage bonds, would be privileged to come before the State Board to seek a determination by the Board fixing the terms of payment of installments of principal. The order and determination of the Board would be binding upon all parties to the proceedings subject to appeal to the Appellate Division of the jurisdictional department in which the property is located.

New York - S. 966. State Agency to Acquire Mortgages. (Introduced by Mr. Caughlin, February 2). Proposes an amendment to the Constitution which would authorize the creation of a State agency to acquire defaulted guaranteed mortgage certificates secured by mortgages on real property and make provision by issuing State bonds for payment to the owners of the full amount of the principal and interest due. These State bonds would be guaranteed as to principal and interest

Land Tenure, cont.

by the State. The State agency would be authorized to acquire any assets covered by mortgage certificates or bonds that were taken over by.

New York - S. 1054. Foreclosure for Failure to Maintain Improvements. (Introduced by Mr. Page, February 6). Would allow anyone otherwise having the right to foreclose a mortgage, the right to make an application to the Court, upon eight day's notice to the last record owner, stating that the property is not in adequate repair. If the finding of the Court be in accordance with the stipulation, authority would be given the owner or holder of the mortgage to commence an action to foreclose, unless the mortgagor made necessary repairs and improvements within 30 days.

South Carolina - H.B. 1047. Assignment of Wages. (Introduced by Committee on Ways and Means. Held over from last Session). Assignment of any wages, salaries, or compensation to be earned in the future, unless by written consent of the employer would vest no enforceable right in the assignees, according to the terms of this bill.

Planning and Zoning

Kentucky - H.B. 3. County Zoning. (Introduced by Mr. Scheben, January 9). Would confer on all counties, the power to adopt ordinances and resolutions providing for the zoning and regulation of "the location, height, bulk, and size of buildings and other structures, the percentage of lot which may be occupied, the size of yards, courts and other open spaces, the density and distribution of population, the use of buildings and structures for trade, industry, residence, recreation, public activities or other purposes and the use of land for trade, industry, residence, recreation, agriculture, water supply conservation, soil conservation, forestry or other purposes". Preparation of zoning ordinances would be delegated to a permanent commission consisting of three, five, or seven members appointed by the county fiscal court. Fiscal courts of two or more counties, would be authorized to arrange for a joint or common commission to be considered the zoning commission of each of such counties. Before adoption and certification of the plan, the zoning commission would be required to submit a tentative plan to appropriate State agencies for advice and recommendations.

Upon adoption of a plan, the zoning commission would certify it to the fiscal court including both the full text of the zoning ordinance and the accompanying maps. The court would then proceed to hold a public hearing after at least 30 days' notice given by publication. No change in the plan as certified by the Commission may be made by the court without first resubmitting it, but the action of the Commission in such cases would be purely advisory. Procedure is outlined

Planning & Zoning, cont.

for the amendment of ordinances, for cooperation between counties, and between counties and the administrative authorities of other municipalities either within or outside these counties. A Board of Adjustment consisting of from three to five members, not more than half of whom may at any one time be members of the zoning commission, would be appointed by the fiscal court. Provision is also made for the review of decisions of the Board by any court in the county. Violations of the Act would be punishable as misdemeanors and resort to the remedies of injunction, mandamus, abatement or other appropriate action might be had for enforcement of ordinances. Nonconforming uses would be allowed to continue subject to the power of the fiscal court to set forth in any zoning ordinance, provisions for termination either by specifying periods or by providing formulae designed to allow for the recovery or amortization of the investment in the nonconformance.

Kentucky - H. B. 69. State Real Estate Board. (Introduced by Mr. Carter, January 10). Proposes the creation of a Kentucky Real Estate Board consisting of five members appointed by the Governor, each of whom must have been in the real estate business for at least ten years. The function of the Board would be to supervise the licensing of real estate brokers and salesmen. The bill lists a number of specific actions, any one of which would be ground for the suspension or revocation of license. Obtaining license by fraud, making substantial misrepresentations or false promises, acting for more than one party in a transaction without the knowledge of all parties concerned, representing or attempting to represent a broker other than the employer without the latter's consent, and failure within a reasonable time to account for money which belongs to others, are among the actions listed.

Kentucky - H.B. 363. Subdivision Control. (Introduced by Mr. Wagner, February 9). Would amend the city planning and zoning law so as to provide penalties for transferring title to lots in unapproved subdivisions and for recording plats without the approval of the Planning Commission.

South Carolina - H.B. 1398. Tourist Camp Control. (Introduced by Messrs. Moore, Bolt, Poag, Pope, Thomas, Hudson, C.C. Moore and Presher, January 31). Proposes the creation of a Tourist Camp County Board in every county of the State, to consist of three members appointed by a majority vote of the legislative delegation of the county. All tourist camps, road houses, filling stations or stores, where lodging accommodations are offered to the public, would be required to obtain an operating license from the Board.

Public Finance

California - A.B. 44. Validation of Organization Procedures. (Introduced by Messrs. Fulcher and Miller, February 1. See also A. 51). Would validate the organization, boundaries, governing officers, acts, proceedings and bonds of public bodies to the extent of correcting defects, irregularities and ministerial errors in complying with statutory requirements which the legislature originally could have omitted from the law without contravening any provision of the State or Federal Constitutions.

Kentucky - H.b. 250. School Funds. (Introduced by Mr. Lampkin, January 30). Would amend the State Constitution so as to provide that all money accruing to the School Fund be used for the maintenance of public schools of the Commonwealth, subject to distribution in accordance with general laws enacted by the Legislature. Each school district would, however, receive on a census pupil basis, at least 90% of any amount accruing to the fund, the remainder being subject to distribution upon other than a census pupil basis.

Kentucky - H.B. 303. Bond Levies. (Introduced by Mr. White, February 5). Due to the fact that several counties have collected more than enough from bond payment levies to retire bonds for which the levy was made, and because of the inexpediency of requiring those counties to hold the surplus money until future bonds are due, this bill would authorize the County fiscal court to appropriate money for general purposes.

Kentucky - S.B. 139. County Fiscal Administration. (Introduced by Mr. Stephenson, February 6). Proposes a revision and clarification of laws relating to the fiscal administration of counties, including uniform budget systems, classification of expenditures, and other related subjects.

New Jersey - S. 30. Borrowing Powers of Municipalities. (Introduced by Mr. Hendrickson, January 22). Would extend to December 31, 1940, existing emergency legislation, relating to the power of counties and municipalities to borrow over their debt limit.

New Jersey - S. 51. Payments in Lieu of Taxes. (Introduced by Mr. Hollinshed, January 22). Provides for payments at the rate of 10¢ per acre per year to municipalities for lands taken and used for park purposes by the Board of Conservation and Development.

Public Lands

California - A. B. 46. Tax Deeded Land. (Introduced by Messrs. Leonard, Weber, Salsman and Del Mitolo, February 1). The Director of Natural Resources would be authorized to apply for control of lands which have been deeded to the State for taxes in accordance with any procedure established by law providing for the administration by the State or its agencies of such property when it is suitable for a public use.

California - A. B. 39. Gas and Oil Production on State Lands. (Introduced by Mr. Miller, February 7). Would add to the powers and duties of the State Land Commission, by authorizing the production and sale of oil and gas from State lands.

Virginia - S. B. 37. Local Forests. (Introduced by Messrs. Moseloy and Robinette, January 18). Would authorize counties, cities and townships to acquire lands for the growth of trees and to use lands already owned by them for the purpose of developing local forests. The Virginia Conservation Commission would be authorized to supply seedlings and transplants from its forest tree nurseries.

Virginia - S. B. 52. Leasing for Public Uses. (Introduced by Mr. Page, January 22). The Virginia Conservation Commission would be empowered to lease lands under its control to responsible organizations for general recreational or other public purposes. Leases would be limited to five years and would require the approval of the Governor.

Real Property Taxation

California - S. B. 37. Severance Taxes. (Introduced by Mr. Korney, January 30. See also A. B. 33). Would impose an excise tax upon the privilege of severing petroleum, natural gas and natural gasoline from the earth, predicated upon quantities produced and rates varying with the specific gravity of the product. Under the terms of the Act, producers would be required to obtain operating permits from the State Board of Equalization and failure to in any way improperly account for payment of the tax would be cause for revocation or refusal of a renewal.

California - S. B. 45. Legislative Indulgences. (Introduced by Mr. Fletcher, January 31). In cases where real estate has been sold to the State before July 6, 1939, for delinquent taxes, and the State has not disposed of it, the owners or interested parties would be permitted, on or before July 1, 1941, to elect to pay such taxes in installments and the period of redemption would be extended during the time that install-

Real Prop. Tax. cont.

ments are paid.

California - A.B. 47. Tax Deeded Property. (Introduced by Messrs. Leonard, Weber, Salsman, Del Norte, Kilpatrick and Burns, February 1). Proposes a revision of existing laws concerning the classification and disposal of tax deeded property.

Kentucky - H. B. 288. Mortgage Exemption. (Introduced by Mr. Lankin, February 1). Owners who have their land mortgaged as of the date when it is assessed for taxation, would be eligible to have the amount of the mortgage deducted from the assessed valuation.

Kentucky - S. B. 19. Assessment. (Introduced by Mr. Stephenson, January 11). Would amend the present laws relating to assessment of taxes so as to require a new assessment of real estate once each four years beginning in July 1941. Reassessments would be made in any year that there has been a change of value as determined by the county tax commissioner or whenever the State Tax Commission directs. Other changes relate to the duties of the county tax commissioners and compensation to be paid them.

New Jersey - A. 56. Discount for Prepayment. (Introduced by Mr. Lun, January 22). The legislative body of a county would be authorized by resolution to fix the rate of discount to be allowed for payment of county taxes in advance of their becoming due. The rate could not exceed 6% and could only be allowed in cases where payment is made more than 30 days in advance.

New Jersey - A. 126. Exemption of Improvements. (Introduced by Mrs. Sanford, January 29). Each taxing district in the State would, by the terms of this bill, have the option of accepting a plan of taxation whereby the rate of assessment on improvements and personal property would be gradually decreased over a period of five years and the rate on land be correspondingly increased. At the end of the five-year period, improvements and personal property would be entirely exempted from taxation. Ten percent of the voters by petition to the municipal clerk or the governing body of the district, by resolution and without the petition, could cause the question to be submitted to a vote at any general election.

New York - A.B. 888. Homestead Exemption. (Introduced by Mr. Peterson, January 25). Would exempt from taxation for local purposes, real estate occupied by the owner solely as his home, if he be 65 years of age and if he has owned the property for at least ten years prior to attaining that age. The property would be assessed in the same manner as other

Real Prop. Tax. cont.

property in the tax district but the exemption would be granted upon application to the regular meeting of assessors held for that purpose of hearing complaints.

New York - A. 905. Notice of Unpaid Taxes. (Introduced by Mr. Mackenzie, January 9). The owner of an interest in real property, or anyone liable for assessments, upon the filing of a statement of his name and address together with a description of his interest in the property with the county treasurer would be entitled thereafter, within 20 days after the return of unpaid taxes, to receive a statement of the amount of taxes due and unpaid on the property. A filing fee of \$1.00 for the original request would be charged.

New York - A. 1290: Commission on Fiscal Administration. (Introduced by Mr. Dwyer, February 7. See also S.110). Proposes the creation of a temporary State Commission including five gubernatorial appointees, three Senators, three Assemblymen and three members of the State Tax Commission, whose duty it would be to make a study of State and local laws relating to the levying of taxes, the preparation of budgets and the methods employed in collecting taxes upon real property. It would also investigate laws relating to assessment, bonded indebtedness, and other related subjects as they affect the various political subdivisions of the State. The Commission would be required to report to the legislature by February 15, 1941.

Water Utilization

California - S.B. 15. Colorado River Board. (Introduced by Messrs. Fletcher and Kenney, January 30). Would amend an Act creating the Colorado River Board of California so as to authorize consultation with representatives of other States in the Colorado River Basin and the Federal government concerning problems and measures relating to the development of the Basin, the use of the waters and the protection of the interests of the State and Federal governments and to formulate and recommend such legislative measures as would contribute to the achievement of these objectives.

California - A. B. 45. Orange County Flood Control. (Introduced by Messrs. Kuchel and Watson, February 1). Would amend the Orange County Flood Control Act so as to permit the district to receive funds as reimbursement for money previously expended and to apply those funds toward the purchase and retirement of outstanding bonds and the payment of installments and principal payments or interest due and to validate any similar transactions which may already have transpired.

Water Utiliz. cont.

California - S. J. R. 4. Klamath Reclamation Project. (Introduced by Mr. Collier, February 1). Proposes a memorial to Congress urging the enactment of legislation to provide for the construction of necessary drainage and flood control works in the Tulolake District of the Klamath Reclamation Project.

New York - A. 1177. Exchange of Canal Lands. (Introduced by Mr. Shaver, February 2. See also S. 1088). In order to facilitate the acquisition of lands and waters necessary for canal purposes, the superintendent of public works would be authorized to enter into agreements for the exchange of canal lands and waters which are found to be no longer necessary to the system.

Virginia - H. P. 36. Stream Pollution. (Introduced by Messrs. Sterrett, Smith and Goodwin, January 16). Would make it unlawful in Bath and Highland Counties, to empty the refuse from a tannery or from a plant engaged in the manufacture of soda or other caustic products, into the waters of a stream so as to pollute or discolor it. Violation of the act would be a misdemeanor punishable by fine of \$25.00 to \$500.00 and in addition to the criminal penalties, any lower riparian owner or tenant would have a right to enjoin the practice as a nuisance.

